

GAMEFACE

INDIANS SPORTSMAN MAGAZINE

Jim Thome...

WHAT IT'S ALL
ABOUT!

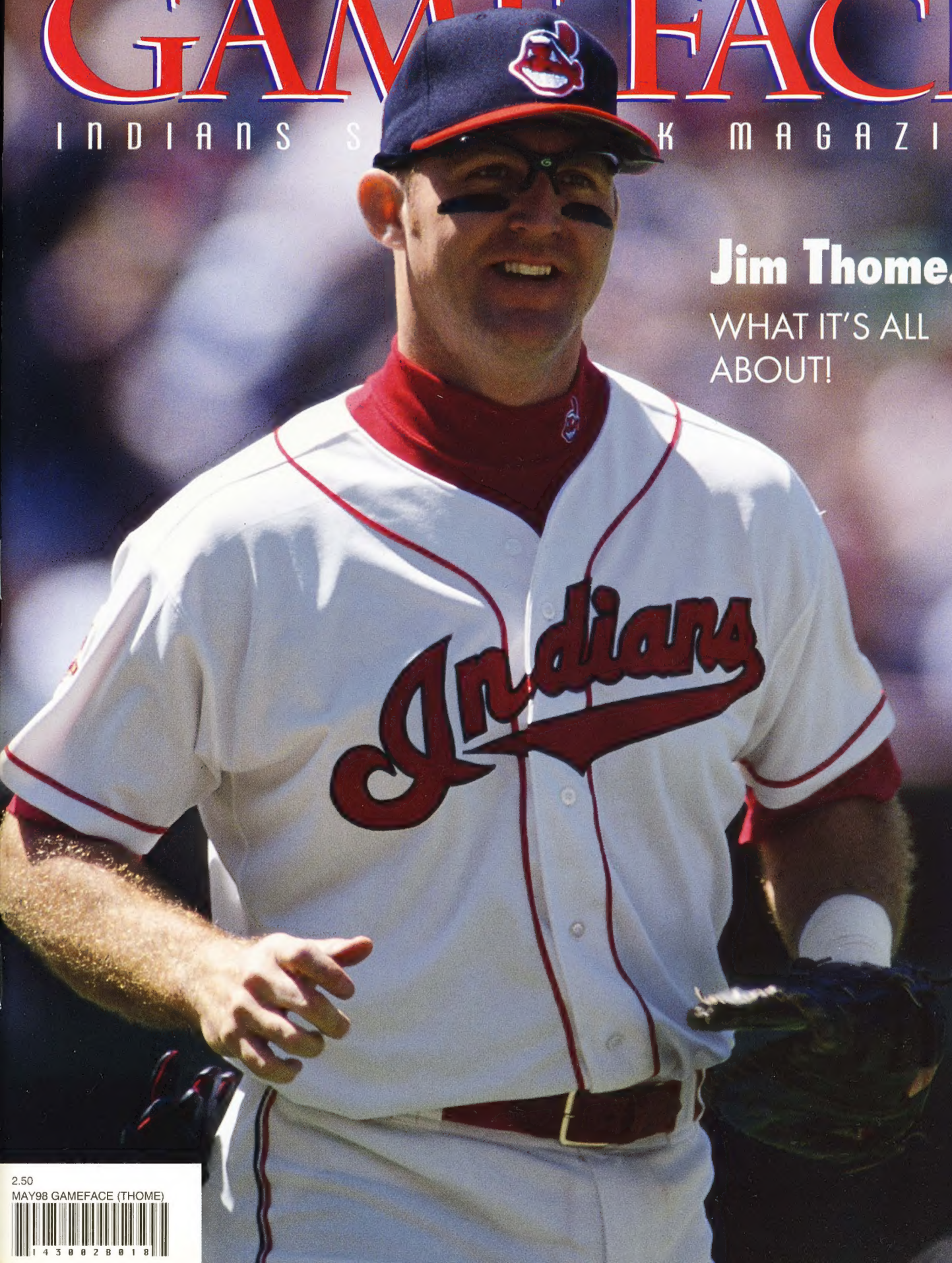


Photo: Gregory Drezdson

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Special thanks to everyone who assisted the Advertising and Publications staff of the Cleveland Indians in the development of this publication.

Graphic design by the Cleveland Indians.

Printed by The Perlmutter Printing Company.

Cover photo and player action by Gregory Drezdson, unless otherwise noted.

Artwork by ZZ Design.

The 1998 Indians Game Face Magazine is published by the Cleveland Indians Baseball Company Limited Partnership, Jacobs Field, 2401 Ontario Street, Cleveland, OH 44115-4003.

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Photo: Gregory Drezdson



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When you see Hall of Famer and former Tribe hurler, Bob Feller, almost everything is the same. The walk... the classic windup... the high leg kick... the delivery... and the follow-through. The speed of the ball may have slowed down a bit, but at nearly 80 years of age, he just keeps going and going!

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WELCOME TO JACOBS FIELD

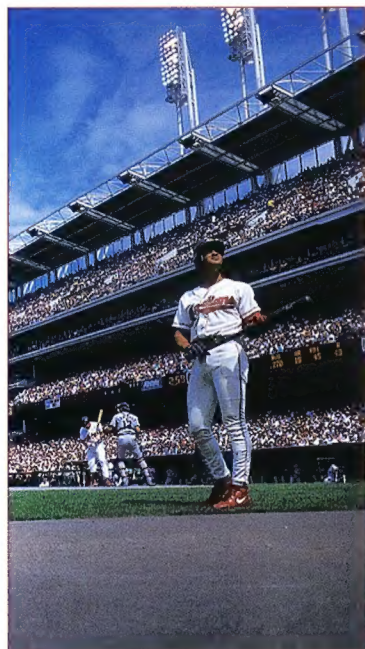


Photo: Gregory Drezdson

"It is our intention to make our home a safe, comfortable, family-oriented facility so every trip to Jacobs Field is most enjoyable."

"We believe these fan ground rules will ensure the intimate environment that we all seek."

— Dennis Lehman, Indians Executive Vice President of Business

Baseball's most important pitch this season won't come from a mound. In an effort to combat drinking and driving, Major League Baseball, together with the Techniques for Effective Alcohol Management (TEAM) coalition, continues to make a comprehensive appeal to fans this year. The message: **PLEASE DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE!**

As part of the TEAM program, each Major League club reviews its alcohol policies and runs public service announcements asking fans to drink responsibly and warns them against the consequences of drinking and driving.

The Cleveland Indians want you safe, because we want you back. Please drink responsibly.

In an effort to make everyone's visit to the Ballpark as safe and enjoyable as possible, a list of guidelines has been developed.

The Indians ask that you follow these guidelines, or be subject to ejection from the Ballpark, and in some cases, subject to criminal prosecution by the Cleveland Police Department.

To ensure that each game is a pleasant experience for each and every guest, the Indians have established the following **"Ground Rules:"**

- Jacobs Field is a non-smoking facility with designated smoking areas. Non-smoking areas include: the entire seating bowl of the Ballpark (including the outdoor seating of Suites and Club Seats); KidsLand; and all public rest rooms. Smoking is permitted in the following areas: Back Yard; Patio area on the Main Concourse; all three concourse levels (Main, Mezzanine, and Upper Deck) on the East Ninth Street side of the Ballpark and Upper Deck pavilion area on the Carnegie side of the Ballpark (all of these locations are open-air areas with picnic tables, concession stands, and rest room facilities nearby); Bleacher Concourse on the Eagle

Avenue side of the Ballpark. In addition, the Terrace Club and Club Lounge have both smoking and non-smoking areas. Jacobs Field has signage identifying designated smoking areas for your convenience.

- Cans, glass bottles, plastic beverage containers, thermos bottles, and squeeze bottles are not permitted into Jacobs Field.
- Due to security concerns, hard-sided coolers and containers are not permitted. Soft-sided containers and coolers are permitted.
- Food items and juice boxes are permitted inside the Ballpark, provided they are not inside a hard-sided cooler or container.
- Pets are not allowed inside the Ballpark. However, guide dogs for persons with sight disabilities are permitted.
- The resale (scalping) of Indians tickets is strictly prohibited and subject to prosecution by the Cleveland Police Department.
- Fans are permitted to bring and display banners, provided they do not interfere with the game, obstruct the view of fans, or carry obscene, political or commercial messages. Banners may be hung from the facing of the Upper Deck. Poles and sticks are strictly prohibited.
- Fans may bring small umbrellas into Jacobs Field as long as they do not interfere with other fans' enjoyment of the game. Large golf umbrellas are discouraged.
- Cameras and video recorders are permitted. However, any resale of the photography or video is strictly prohibited. Team name, logos, and players' likenesses are all copyrighted material.
- Persons observed breaking the law (eg. using illegal drugs, or drinking alcohol underage) will be subject to immediate ejection and/or criminal prosecution.
- Persons using obscene or abusive language, or engaging in any other antisocial conduct offensive to those around them, will be asked by Indians personnel to cease this conduct. If the offensive conduct persists, those involved will be ejected from Jacobs Field.
- Persons entering the playing field, throwing or attempting to throw objects onto the field, will be subject to immediate ejection from Jacobs Field and/or criminal prosecution.

If you have any questions, comments, suggestions, or problems, please visit one the Guest Service Centers located at Section 116 of the Main Concourse and in Section 519 of the Upper Concourse, or see one of our hosts throughout the Ballpark. The Indians thank you for your cooperation.



ALL YOUR FAVORITE NUMBERS.

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\$16 YOUTH



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All your favorite numbers and all your favorite players are here in these 100% cotton Tees from Lee Sport. Your choice of Justice, Thome, Vizquel, Ramirez, Alomar and Nagy Tees. Other players available.

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Available in White, Grey, Red and Navy

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Justice, Thome, Vizquel, Ramirez, Alomar and Nagy Tees only.



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Stores: Jacobs Field, Galleria at Erieview, Belden Village Mall in Canton, Westgate Mall in Fairview Park, Great Lakes Mall in Mentor, Summit Mall in Akron, SouthPark Center in Strongsville.

Selection varies by location.
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IN THE COMMUNITY

FREE INDIANS TICKETS FOR STUDENTS

The Cleveland Indians have once again teamed up with McDonald & Company Investments to provide game tickets for students who excel in the classroom. Through the **High Achievers Program**, students in grades 4-10 in Cuyahoga County schools are eligible to receive free Indians tickets to designated games. Students are selected by their school principal to receive the tickets. In the previous nine years, nearly 300,000 tickets to Cleveland Indians games have been awarded to deserving students. The Indians and McDonald & Company are proud to support educational achievement in our area. For more information about High Achievers, please call the Community Relations Information Line at (216) 420-4400.



CHARITABLE COMPLIMENTARY TICKET PROGRAM

Despite the sellouts to see championship baseball at Jacobs Field, the Indians are able to provide free game tickets to non-profit organizations. Through the **Charitable Complimentary Ticket Program**, presented by KeyBank, more than 4,000 tickets will be distributed this season to state-certified non-profits serving underprivileged youth, senior citizens and disabled fans. To see whether your organization is eligible for tickets through the Charitable Complimentary Ticket Program please call the Community Relations Information Line at (216) 420-4400.



SOFTBALL CLINICS AT JACOBS FIELD

This year the Indians are expanding their youth baseball programs to include **Girls Softball Clinics**. In conjunction with the Girls Scouts of Lake Erie Council, the Indians will host a beginners fast-pitch clinic and an intermediate/advanced clinic at Jacobs Field. The head clinician will be Cleveland State University Women's Head Softball Coach Julie Jones. Participants will practice fielding, hitting, pitching, base running and also participate in a fit and healthy lifestyles session. In addition, the Tribe will treat the girls to an Indians game later in the week. To sign up for these inaugural softball clinics, please call the Girlsports Division of the Girl Scouts of Lake Erie Council at (216) 481-1313.

Credit: Tony Gray



GET A PIECE OF THE PARK

Various streetpole banners from the 1995, 1996, and 1997 seasons are available for purchase from Cleveland Indians Charities. These streetpole banners are the very same ones which have decorated the streets surrounding Jacobs Field over the past championship seasons. For information on purchasing these banners, please call (216) 420-4400.

Credit: Gregory Drezdron



Not Thome. He bought a home in Aurora, OH and lives there year-round. He and his fiancée, Andrea Pacione, a former sportscaster and news anchor in Cleveland television, will be married in the off-season. Thome does more than live in the community. He gives back to it. During the Christmas season last December, he dressed up like Santa Claus and handed out gifts, he paid for himself, to children at Rainbow Babies & Children's Hospital.

The idea didn't come from a well planned-out public relations campaign. He's just an everyday guy, who happens to be a star baseball player, doing something nice for people less fortunate.

"It was just out of the blue," Thome said. "Andrea and I had talked about it. We wanted to give back to the community. After signing the long-term deal, with the no-trade clause, they committed to me. I wanted to give back to the fans of Cleveland for all they've done."

There's no doubt the children enjoyed the visit. But Thome might have enjoyed it more than they did.

"It's been great," he said. "I don't do it to look good. When you go visit a sick child in the hospital, it makes you realize how lucky you have it. It's a bad thing to see somebody, especially a child, that's sick. It means a lot to them, not (seeing) me, but it could be Omar (Vizquel) or Sandy (Alomar) or Manny Ramirez. It could be anybody. It doesn't take a lot of time. All you need is two, three hours to go visit somebody. It makes their life. It makes their world."

Thome thinks the family atmosphere has engulfed the team.

"You look at guys like Sandy, myself, and Charlie Nagy, we all came up through the system together," he said.

"Those guys need to be commended, too. They've been loyal to the Indians and the community."

And that family atmosphere has also carried over to the fans.

"A lot of these guys are good, good people," Thome said. "They sign autographs and give their time, either before the game or after. It's difficult to do it all the time, but when you can do it, it's important to give to the fans, because without them, I don't think this city would be as popular with baseball as it has been. Think about it. Every year we're sold out. The free agents we've gotten are because we fill the Ballpark. That doesn't go to us. It goes to the fans. They've been the best part of all. It's fun to go to the park when you know the fans will be there."

The lure of playing in Cleveland even superseded Thome's affection for the Chicago Cubs, the team he grew up rooting for. Prior to

"We wanted to give back to the community. After signing the long-term deal, with the no-trade clause, they committed to me."

"I wanted to give back to the fans of Cleveland for all they've done."
— Jim Thome

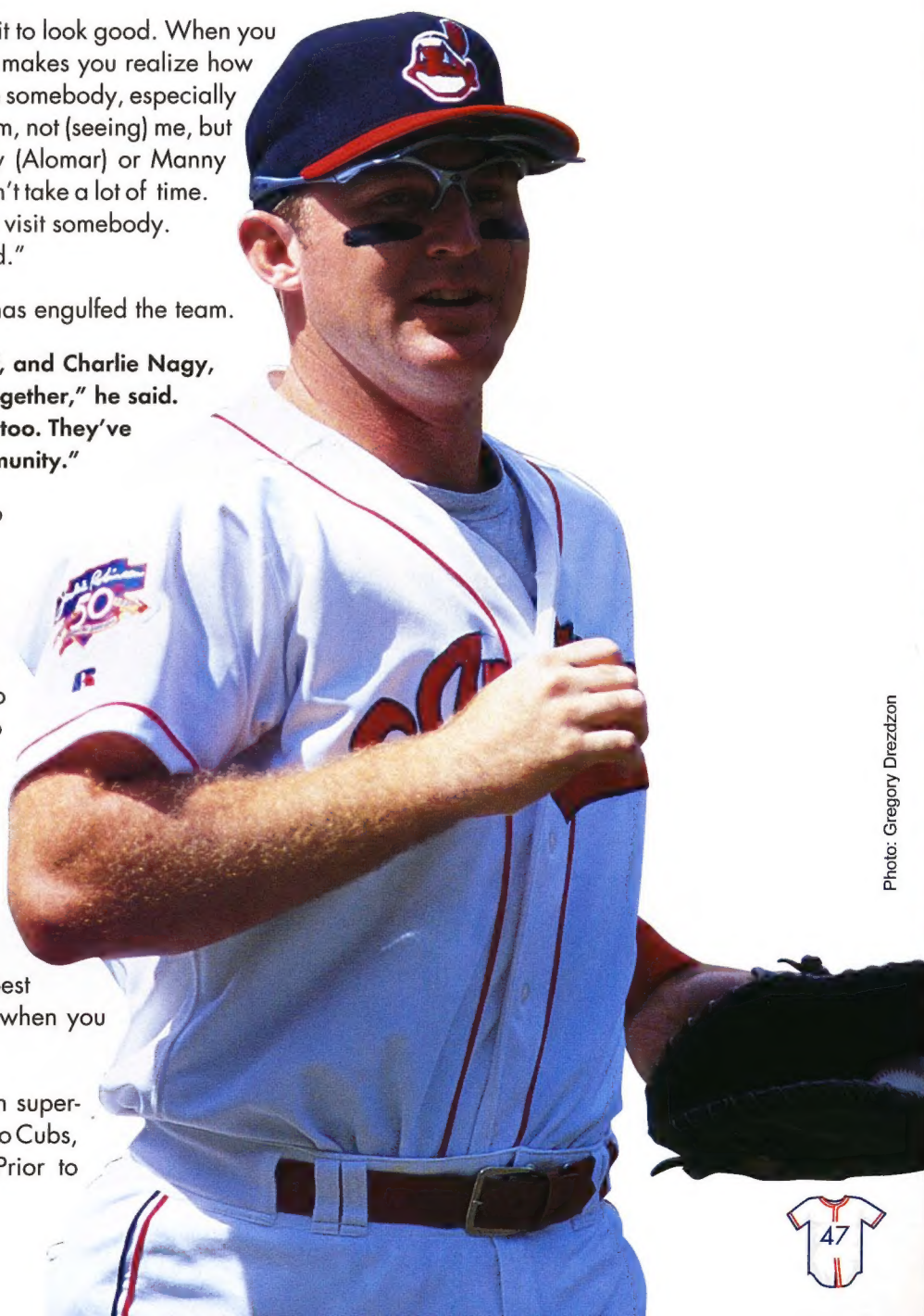


Photo: Gregory Drezdson



Like every Tribe fan, Thome has had a tough time forgetting last fall's World Series, when the Indians came within two outs of winning their first world championship since 1948.

Clark was traded to the New York Mets the day before the 1996 season opened.

"When Mark got traded it was very difficult for me for a good couple of months because we went from doing everything on the road, being a brother-like deal, to waking up one day and realizing he's not there," said Thome.

So what will happen if Thome digs into the batter's box, looks out to the mound and sees his old buddy ready to deliver a pitch?

"It will be hard for me not to laugh," he said. "From the professional side, I think it will be very intense because he'll want to get me and I'll want to get him. We'll have a little wager on the side. I can't tell you what it will be, but it will be something worthwhile!"

When it comes to this season, there's also that bit of unfinished business about the World Series. Like every Tribe fan, Thome has had a tough time forgetting last fall's World Series, when the Indians came within two outs of winning their first world championship since 1948. When the Florida Marlins won Game 7 in the 11th inning, the picture of Thome kneeling by the pitcher's mound ran in newspapers and magazines around the country.

When Spring Training opened in February, Thome handed out T-shirts to his teammates that read, "Team Thome" on the front and "It don't mean a thing 'til we get that ring," on the back.

"It was really tough to get over losing the World Series," he said. "To come as close as we did and not walk away with the ring, I had a hard time dealing with that."

Thome has hit 78 homers the past two seasons. He has also topped the 100 mark in RBI, runs, and walks both years. He's also a star player who puts the team first. When the



Photo: Gregory Drezdson



Indians acquired Matt Williams before the 1997 season, they asked Thome if he would make the switch from third base to first base. He willingly agreed and worked hard all season to improve at his new position. That paid off in Game 5 of the Division Series against the Yankees. With the Indians clinging to a one-run lead in the seventh inning, he made a diving stop of Paul O'Neill's ground ball and, from his knees, threw to second for a crucial force play. The Indians won 4-3.

"I struggled at the plate, but I told myself I could still help the team with my glove," he said. "That was a big play for me. It showed me you don't always have to do something offensively to help the team win."

There will be another big moment for Thome when the season ends. He and Pacione, who met in 1995, were engaged last summer and will be married in the off-season. Married life is something he's looking forward to.

"Andrea has taught me how to be a better person," he said. "She makes me want to be a better man."

When some athletes gain success and start earning big money, there is a noticeable change in their personality. Hart doesn't see that happening in this case.

"I don't think you'll ever see that in Jimmy," he said. "He's a conscientious, humble young man. He commands a lot of respect as a human being. He will always be a credit to the organization and his family."

That's Jim Thome. Great guy. Fan favorite. Star player. And all this will continue to happen right here in Cleveland for a long, long time. ♥



Photo: Gregory Drezdson

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Jim Thome

Photo: Gregory Drezdson



HOW TO SCORE

Baseball fans can enjoy the sport to the fullest extent by keeping track of the game and pinpointing those big plays that bring victory or defeat. All you need is a basic knowledge of the rules.

Although there are countless scoring methods, experts use a simple code based on numbering players by position and tracing action through the use of symbols. It's easy and fun.

In fact, why not devise your own scoring system with the basic suggestions on this page.

One such suggestion on player substitutions is to use a heavy or wavy line under or over a box to indicate a change, either of a player or batter.

If a batter flies to the rightfielder, merely use the figure 9. If it is a foul fly, use 9F.

Now that you are an official "scorer," you can really enjoy baseball games.

TEAM	Pos.	1	2
Rightfielder	9	4-6 W	
2nd Baseman	4	3 ④FO	
1st Baseman	3	=	
Centerfielder	8	SF 8	
Designated Hitter	DH	K	
Leftfielder	7		4-6
Catcher	2		DP 4-6-3
3rd Baseman	5		⊖
Shortstop	6		7
Pitcher	1		
TOTALS	R / H	1 / 1	1 / 2

Walked and was forced out at second (2nd baseman to shortstop).

Reached first on fielder's choice when runner was forced out, advanced to third on a double by 3rd place hitter, scored on 4th place hitter's sacrifice fly.

Doubled; did not advance further.

Flew out to center field scoring runner on third.

Struck out — end of the inning.

Singled: later forced out at second (2nd baseman to shortstop in first half of double play).

Hit into double play (2nd baseman to shortstop to 1st baseman).

Hit home run.

Flew out to leftfielder — end of inning.

Use these SYMBOLS for Plays

Single	—
Double	=
Triple	≡
Home Run	≡
Error	E
Foul Fly	F
Double Play	DP
Fielder's Choice	FC
Hit by Pitcher	HP
Wild Pitch	WP
Stolen Base	SB
Sacrifice Hit	SH
Sacrifice Fly	SF
Caught Stealing	CS
Passed Ball	PB
Balk	BK
Struck Out	K
Base on Balls	BB
Forced Out	FO
Intentional Walk	IW

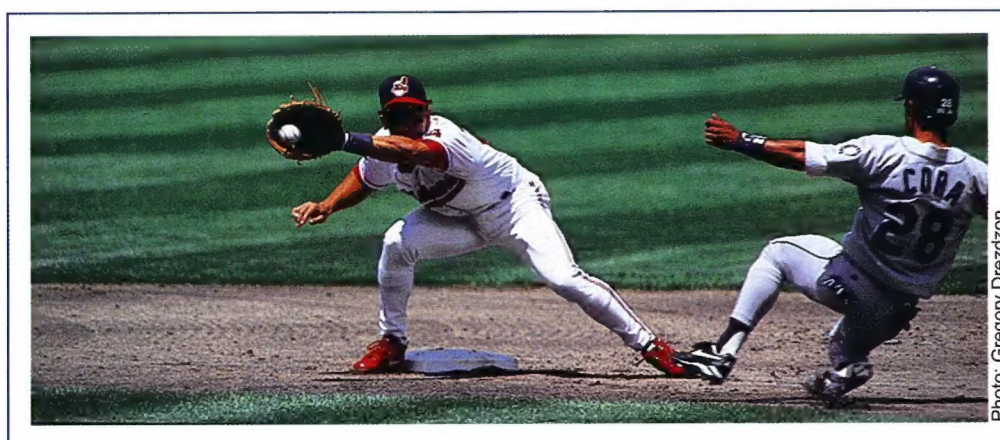


Photo: Gregory Drezdson

Can You Score This Play ?

The ball was hit to the shortstop, who threw it to the second baseman. The second baseman was able to force out the runner who had been at first. He then threw the ball to the first baseman to get the batter out, turning a double play.

In this example...

The hitter reached first base on a walk, stole second, advanced to third on a pitcher's balk, and scored on a wild pitch.

BK	SB
⊖	W



THE PLAYERS



Photo: Gregory Drezdson



BOTTOM OF THE NINTH



Credit: Gregory Drezdson

WE'RE GETTING A LITTLE TOO STRESSED RIGHT NOW... LET'S FIND **SLIDER!**